

REMARKS

ELECTION OF RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

The Examiner has alleged that the present application contains claims directed to more than one invention and required the Applicant to elect a single invention between Group I, Claims 1 – 13, drawn to a method for removing hydrocarbon from a vapor-gas; and Group II, Claim 14, drawn to an apparatus system.

Pursuant to the restriction requirement, Applicant elects the invention of Group I, Claims 1 – 13, drawn to a method for removing hydrocarbon from a vapor-gas, for further examination **with traverse**.

Applicant respectfully submits that the Examiner's restriction requirement is incorrect. According to PCT Rule 13.2, "where a group of inventions is claimed in one and the same international application, the requirement of unity of an invention referred to in Rule 13.1 shall be fulfilled only when there is a technical relationship among those inventions involving one or more of the same or corresponding special technical features. The expression 'technical features' shall mean those technical features that define a contribution which each of the claimed inventions, considered as a whole, makes over the prior art." Taking into account the above mentioned rules, Applicant notices that both inventions according to Claims 1 and 14 share the same purpose of removing hydrocarbons from a vapor-gas medium formed during petroleum product storage and when filling a tank therewith.

Claim 1 includes the distinguishing feature "... gasoline is used as the petroleum product and hydrocarbon liquid, and prior to being fed to the absorption column the gasoline is cooled ..." and Claim 14 includes the distinguishing feature "... the refrigerator, pump input or separator is connected to the gasoline supply pipeline ...". If such connection is used, the gasoline is hydrocarbon liquid, said hydrocarbon liquid being fed into the absorption column through the refrigerator.

Thus, the common feature of Claims 1 and 14 is the use of the gasoline as petroleum and as hydrocarbon liquid absorbing hydrocarbons from the gaseous phase.

The common feature of Claims 1 and 14 is unknown from RU 2183443 and EP 0247585. According to RU 2,183,443, a hydrocarbon-containing liquid with the pressure of saturated vapors less than the pressure of saturated vapors of petroleum is fed to an absorption column (please see claim 1 and abstract). It means that hydrocarbon-containing liquid differs from the petroleum-gasoline.

EP 0247585 also does not disclose that the gasoline would be both petroleum forming a vapor-gas medium to be fed for cleaning as well as a hydrocarbon-containing liquid to be fed into the absorption column for cleaning the gaseous phase from the hydrocarbons, where in the gaseous phase is obtained from the vapor-gas medium in the separator. Thus, the above mentioned features of Claim 1 and 14 are common special technical features not disclosed or suggested by prior art.

Furthermore, Applicant respectfully submits that Claim 14 defines that "... pump input or separator is connected to the gasoline supply pipeline, and the liquid medium output from the separator is connected to the container for storage of gasoline or to the tank to be filled with gasoline" completely coincide with dependent Claim 2, which defines "the method according to Claim 1, characterized in that gasoline is fed to the separator or to the pump input and simultaneously the liquid medium is removed from the separator into the container for storing petroleum products or into the filling tank."

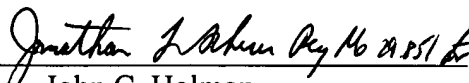
Therefore, Applicant traverses the restriction requirement and submits that the claimed invention satisfies the unity of invention requirements under PCT Rules 13.2 and 13.2.

An action on the merits of all of the claims and a Notice of Allowance thereof are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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